

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 02833 291747Z
ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9737
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 2833

EXDIS

DEPT PASS OTHER POSTS AS DESIRED

VIENNA FOR LEDSKY

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR CY
SUBJECT: VIENNA/CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS: DISCUSSION WITH
FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS

REF: A. NICOSIA 846; B. NICOSIA 832

1. I MET WITH BITSIOS THIS AFTERNOON PRIMARILY TO
DISCUSS TWO SUBJECTS -- THE VIENNA/CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS
AND THE NEXT PHASE OF US-GREEK DEFENSE COOPERATION
NEGOTIATIONS (SEPTTEL).

2. BITSIOS TOLD ME HE HAD HAD A LONG MEETING WITH
PEREZ DE CUELLAR YESTERDAY AND HAD BEEN MEETING MOST
OF THIS MORNING WITH THE GREEK CYPRIOT NEGOTIATORS,
FOLLOWING DISUSSIONS YESTERDAY WITH CARAMANLIS.
BITSIOS SAID THAT THE GOG HAD BEEN FULLY BRIEFED ON
THE PREPARATIONS MADE FOR THE VIENNA TALKS.

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PAGE 02 ATHENS 02833 291747Z

3. HE SAID THE GREEK CYPRIOTS WERE READY IN EVERY
WAY TO PROCEED WITH THE NEGOTIATIONS IN VIENNA,
THAT THEIR SUITCASES AND SATCHELS WERE FULL OF THE
MAPS AND PROPOSALS WHICH THEY HAD EARLIER PROMISED
TO DISCUSS IN VIENNA. HOWEVER, THE GREEK CYPRIOTS
HAD TOLD HIM THAT THE ADVANCE REPORTS AVAILABLE TO

THEM FROM VARIOUS SOURCES WERE QUITE DISCOURAGING AS FAR AS THE ANTICIPATED POSITIONS TO BE TAKEN BY THE TURKISH SIDE. THEY UNDERSTOOD, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE TURKS WERE GOING TO PROPOSE TWO CONSTITUTIONS FOR THE TWO FEDERATED STATES ON THE ISLAND, AND TWO PRIME MINISTERS WHO WOULD ALTERNATE SERVING AS PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS. THE POWERS TO BE RETAINED BY THE FEDERAL OR PERHAPS, MORE CORRECTLY, "CONFEDERAL" GOVERNMENT IN NICOSIA WOULD BE AS LIMITED, WEAK, AND MEANINGLESS AS POSSIBLE WITH ONLY ONE REAL OBJECTIVE IN MIND: TO PRESENT A FACADE TO THE WORLD OF A UNITARY STATE ON CYPRUS SO THERE WOULD BE NO OPPORTUNITY FOR SOME LATER POSSIBLE ENOSIS OF THE GREEK CYPRIOT STATE WITH GREECE. THUS, THE GREEK CYPRIOTS, WHILE GOING TO VIENNA WITH MAPS, PROPOSALS AND HOPE, WERE NOT VERY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE RESULTS THAT MIGHT BE ACHIEVED.

4. BITSIOS SAID THAT THE GOG WAS PREPARED TO REMAIN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH US WHILE THE VIENNA TALKS WERE IN PROGRESS. HE SAID HE KNEW THAT LEDSKY WOULD BE THERE, WHICH SHOULD PROVE MOST HELPFUL. IN ADDITION, HE SAID HE WOULD WISH AND BE AVAILABLE TO MAINTAIN CONTACT HERE IN ATHENS, AND WE MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR REACHING EACH OTHER VERY PROMPTLY OVER THIS COMING WEEKEND. BITSIOS REAFFIRMED THAT THE GOG WANTED TO BE AS HELPFUL AS IT COULD IN MOVING TOWARD A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT AND WAS PREPARED TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE WHEN AND AS IT COULD.
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PAGE 03 ATHENS 02833 291747Z

5. DE CUELLAR AND THE GREEK CYPRIOT DELEGATION WILL BE DEPARTING LATER TODAY FOR VIENNA.
KUBISCH

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